

CONFIDENTIAL.]

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REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 21st June 1902.

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REPORT (PART II)

THE STATE OF THE UNION

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

814. The *Behar Herald* read the news of the declaration of peace with peculiar pleasure and delight and thinks that all public offices in India should be closed for two or three days for universal rejoicing.

BEHAR HERALD,
7th June 1902.

815. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds it difficult to express itself properly in respect of the termination of the Boer war. It considers it a matter of sincere gratification, however, that what seemed an interminable, profitless, purposeless and mischievous war has come to an end. It goes on to say: As it is not profitable and not likely to be agreeable to examine too closely the terms of the peace we shall not do so. But we have not been able to understand what is to be the future of the Boer land. It is proposed to take back home all the Boer prisoners who had been deported. It is further proposed to leave them their arms. Fed and fattened abroad, in a few months they will find themselves quite in a good form to renew the fight. There is at least Steyn who has not yielded. What will prevent the ungrateful Boers who would be taken home from augmenting the force of the irreconcilables? To prevent this it will be necessary to station a very large British force in the midst of the Boers. If this be the end of the peace, where is the profit and advantage? We have tried to explain in the above why the proclamation of peace has not created that enthusiasm which the event deserved.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th June 1902.

816. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* :—

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th June 1902.

Mr. Chamberlain and the Peace terms. Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the Hotel Cecil may be read as having been delivered in an unusually subdued vein. Of course, Mr. Chamberlain is a past-master in the craft of climbing down. The peace, he avers, is "honourable for both parties." We believe it is, but not in the former Chamberlainic sense. Then it meant "unconditional surrender," and "no quarter." But the peace, as signed, is a very different thing. The Boer surrender is very conditional indeed, and the Boers have received terms which six months ago would have made Mr. Chamberlain cry for very rage and disappointment.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

817. The *Bengalee* explains in detail the system of swindling known as the *Dona Khela*, and the part played by the Sub-Inspector of Nandigram in promoting the gang of these swindlers at work in his jurisdiction, which led to his being burnt to death by an infuriated and cheated populace. It says that although it is by no means the advocate of Lynch Law, the murder of the Sub-Inspector was as justifiable a case of lynching as any on record, although the result practically places the oppressed in the position of oppressors.

BENGALIEE,
9th June 1902.

No established Government would tolerate concerted action on the part of the people leading to acts of violence. No alien Government could be expected to practise such tolerance. But the claims of justice should always be considered to be superior to political necessity and in a case like the Nandigram riot case, the *Bengalee* has a right to expect that the Government should not overlook the circumstances which, in a manner, forced on the riot.

818. Commenting on the sentences passed on the rioters concerned in the Nandigram case, the same paper writes :—

BENGALIEE,
15th June 1902.

Ibid. We do not wish to defend the action of the people in this particular matter. We do not believe in violence, specially where violence must lead to disastrous results to the perpetrators. But, having regard to all the surrounding circumstances of these unfortunate cases, we must say that we do believe that there is a very great deal which could be said in extenuation of the offences committed by the people of Nandigram in this connection. But the justice to be found in our courts is of the cast-iron type. It makes no difference in view of the peculiar circumstances of a case.

And our Magistracy are such that they would think it a dereliction of duty, worthy of exemplary punishment, if a member of their service failed to punish in a case of rioting, and punish with severity.

In this case, it continues, the Subdivisional Officer of Tamluk kept quiet when his timely interference might have saved thousands of people, whose well-being was committed to his care, from absolute ruin. He kept absolutely quiet when he should have spoken out. And now that in a moment of not unnatural, though unreasoning, fury the people took the law into their own hands and wreaked a summary vengeance on those who had been instrumental in cheating them, the Subdivisional Officer of Tamluk has shaken off his lethargy and is himself again, and is prepared to visit with the utmost rigour of the law the men who could at least plead a great moral justification for their action. He is the avenger of the police. And we have no doubt that his superiors will duly appreciate his services.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th June 1902.

819. Referring to Mr. Aston's appointment as Judge of the Bombay High Court, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

Mr. Aston, a Judge of the High Court, Bombay.

And yet the very District Judge—who shocked the English nation by the appalling savagery of his sentences and brought contempt upon the administration of justice,—who most seriously damaged the reputation of Indian tribunals, by reckless savagery of his sort,—who had completely lost his head and had brought the administration of Justice into contempt—is now promoted to the Bench of the High Court! How utterly indifferent is the Government of India with regard to public opinion not only in this country, but also in England! Was there no other Judge to be found in the whole of the Bombay Presidency to fill up the vacancy in the High Court? Any Judge in England, assailed, as Mr. Aston was, would surely have resigned his appointment.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
8th June 1902.

820. Commenting on the judgment of the High Court on the reference made to it by the Sessions Judge of Rajshahi in the *Muharram* cases, *Power and Guardian* characterises it as an exposition of extraordinary weakness which has earned for it the pity of the Indian community.

The preliminary enquiry held by Mr. Roe, who is alleged to have put leading questions to the witnesses and to have frightened them, as well as to have recorded his opinion that the pleader who appeared on their behalf appeared on his own account, are thus referred to by the *Guardian*.

We can hardly justify such conduct on the part of a Magistrate; but we are living in strange times, when it is useless for the poor people to expect justice in cases in which they are the victims of Europeans. These are strong terms, but Mr. Roe's conduct from start to finish deserves nothing less.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th June 1902.

821. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hopes that the trial of Pochai, Tetul Kobad and the Musulman Honorary Magistrate for making a false complaint against Mr. Ryan, late District Superintendent of Rajshahi, and for perjury, will not be conducted either by Mr. Roe, District Magistrate, or any of his subordinates, but will be transferred to the file of another District Magistrate. It says that Mr. Lee, the District Judge, will in these trials be able to prove the falsity of the accusation made against him of having fostered cases against Mr. Ryan.

The journal offers the following explanation with regard to its interest in the case:—

We said it once before, and may as well repeat it here, that our sole object in referring to these cases over and over again is to illustrate by concrete examples the facts that the system of uniting the functions, executive and judicial, in one officer, is inherently bad, and that it is simply impossible for an official who is empowered to act both as a prosecutor and a judge, to perform his double duties without falling into pitfalls. We do not at all attribute any moral turpitude to Mr. Roe, but we attribute blame to the system under which he works. Pochai complains against Mr. Ryan, the District Superintendent of Police, to the Magistrate. The Magistrate is the immediate superior of the District Superintendent. They work together

for the object of keeping the peace of the district. They hold confidential conversation, and in the case of Mr. Roe and Mr. Ryan, the friendship was so strong that it is in evidence that the latter slept in the house of the former. Such being the case, it was impossible for the Magistrate, even if he were an angel, to keep his mind as clean as a white sheet of paper, if he found that he had to try his subordinate, his minister and colleague, his constant companion and his intimate friend.

822. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the references made by Mr. Lee, the District Judge of Rajshahi, to the High Court on the *Muharram* cases, with the following

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th June 1902.

The Rajshahi cases.

comments :—

What the Hon'ble Judges, in our humble opinion, should have done, before censuring Mr. Lee, was to embody the full texts of the references in their judgment and then to comment upon them in the light of the records before them. This would have enabled the public to judge of the propriety or the impropriety of the castigation administered by them to the Sessions Judge of Rajshahi. What their Lordships, however, did was to quote a few lines from the letters of reference and then to condemn the conduct of Mr. Lee. This, to say the least, was very unfair to him; for the severe manner in which he was dealt with, led many to think that possibly Mr. Lee had said several objectionable things in his references, and that the Hon'ble Judges had thus every right to impart to him a lesson as to how he should behave with a responsible officer like the District Magistrate. Would it, however, be believed that both the references were not only worded in dignified and dispassionate language, but there was nothing in them to which exception could be taken? It simply staggers us to contemplate that an inaggressive and gentle Sessions Judge like Mr. Lee, who had been subjected to insults before the Indian public in Rajshahi in diverse ways by a Sub-Inspector of Police, should have received such treatment at the hands of a Divisional Bench presided over by one of the most experienced and high-minded of our High Court Judges, who is so deservedly respected for his love of fair-play and high sense of justice, and who is incapable of showing any bias, specially when there is absolutely nothing for which the Sessions Judge could be blamed. Not to mince matters, the severe censure administered to Mr. Lee has caused deep disappointment and pain to the public. Nay, something like a feeling of despair will overtake them when they go through the full texts of the references.

823. The *Indian Nation* publishes the following paragraph :—

INDIAN NATION,
9th June 1902.

Mr. Dobbin.

What is the good of discussing the *legality* of the Registrar of the Small Cause Court holding the office of Coroner? Everything legal is not fitting. Pluralism is not a thing to be encouraged; that is all we can say. There are so many to be maintained, that there is hardly any fairness in showering favours on one. Mr. K. M. Chatterjea was not allowed to remain a Law Professor when he became a Small Cause Court Judge, but Mr. Dobbin may remain Coroner. It is no loss to the native community, however, for if Mr. Dobbin ceases to be Coroner, not Sham Chunder or Ram Chunder, but Robbin or Bobbin will take his place.

824. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is glad to find a respectable English paper like the *Pall Mall Gazette* admitting, with reference to the Farrakhabad case, that in England

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
12th June 1902.

The Farrakhabad case.

they would shrink from such a ghastly spectacle as hanging 14 men for the murder of one. It deplores in those very Englishmen, the loss of those finer sentiments which characterize them in England and attributes the change to the system of administration which prevails here. For this reason it is clear that they should not come out to India, for nothing can be a greater misfortune to a man than to lose his noble sentiments and become as callous as a stone.

It next protests against the *Pall Mall Gazette's* accusation that owing to the turbulence of the people such sentences are justifiable. The natives of India are, it says, thoroughly tamed animals, "human sheep," as the *New York Sun* calls them, sober vegetarians, who are emasculated by being disarmed, who are

shown by a comparison of crime statistics to be more law-abiding than the other civilized races of the world.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th June 1902.

825. The following paragraph is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

District Judges in India.

District Magistrates here and there in India are getting more and more reckless in their interference with the judicial independence of the subordinate Magistracy and in their support of the police. Instances to prove this come to us almost daily, but we cannot, for obvious reasons, publish them. We do not know what is to be the end of it all. That judicial work is not very much to the liking of the executive officials generally is well-known, but yet they cannot do without this necessary evil. That the judicial department is getting more and more unattractive—the Government knows very well; officials do not now choose the judicial line, yet Englishmen, both here and at home, will not permit the abolition of the Judicial Department altogether. They may permit the Executive to badger and humiliate the members of the Judicial service, but they will never permit their total annihilation. Weak or strong, they must have Judges. Is it, then, the intention of the Government to fill up the Judicial Branch of the public service by Indians, in the hope that they will not very much object to being pulled by the ears by the Police? Yes, the Indian Judges—we mean some of them, with Rs. 1,200 per month or more—may agree to serve under that condition.

(d)—Education.

BENGALUR,
8th June 1902.

826. While heartily welcoming the anxiety of the Government for the student community of Calcutta, as evidenced by the new order issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, that the sanitary condition of a house will have to be previously certified to by the Health Department before it is licensed as a students' mess, the *Bengalee* enquires who will be required to apply for this certificate of sanitation—the landlord, the students themselves or the authorities of the College? The journal holds that it is unwise to superadd unnecessary difficulties to students residing in Calcutta. What is wanted in this connection, is to see that the rules for hostels and students' messes in Calcutta are really carried out, so far as the health, morals and the intellectual improvement of young men, in messes and hostels, are concerned. Let the Government weed out the houses of ill-fame from the neighbourhood of colleges and hostels. The sanitation of the houses for students' messes may, with advantage, be left to the authorities of schools and colleges. It hopes the stringency of the rule will be relaxed, and no unnecessary obstacle thrown in the way of the large influx of students that takes place from the mufassal about this time of the year.

Students' messes in Calcutta.

INDIAN MIRROR,
9th June 1902.

827. The *Indian Nation* protests against the removal of students from the Medical College who fail in their examinations. They should be allowed to continue their studies and take the risk of more failures, but they should not be cast adrift to commence a new course of professional study. There is a great dearth of doctors in this insanitary country with its sickly people, and technical and scientific education should on this account be encouraged.

Medical College, Calcutta.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th June 1902.

828. The following observations on the effect of the existing system of higher education in this country are taken from a leader in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

Higher education in India.

Whatever may be the recommendations of the Education Commission, we sincerely trust that His Excellency Lord Curzon will be pleased to keep one point in view, when finally disposing of the question, namely, that the higher classes of Indians are fast disappearing, and that this is partly, perhaps chiefly, due to the extraordinary mental and physical strain imposed upon our students by a large number of subjects they are required to master in a foreign tongue and the stiffness of the examinations they have to pass. The nation must be saved at any rate—that is the first consideration. If, for this purpose, it becomes necessary to curtail the present number of subjects and render the examinations a little easier that should be done. For, if the higher classes

die under the pressure of the present system, there will be very few to avail themselves of the benefits of the higher education.

829. The local feeling at Rajshahi, says the *Bengalee*, seems to be that the Weaving Department of the Industrial School is discouraged by the authorities, lest it should prove a formidable rival to the silk factories in the neighbourhood owned by European capitalists. "We should be sorry to believe that there was any just foundation for this feeling. We should be sorry to believe that the Government would prove untrue to the interests of the people in its anxiety to protect the interests of European capitalists. The Government has again and again expressed its anxiety to promote technical education; and weaving is one of the great industries for which Bengal was noted in the past, and for which the Bengalis, at any rate, some of the special castes of the Bengali community, showed considerable aptitude. We take it to be the duty of the Government to encourage a department of the Industrial School which is calculated to stimulate an ancient industry, which, in the last century, was a source of wealth and prosperity to the country."

BENGALIEE,
14th June 1902.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

830. The *Bengalee* complains that there is too much of interference with the independent action of the local bodies and too much of official guidance, conceived in a somewhat reactionary spirit. "The old spirit of progress appears to have left the counsels of our rulers, and there seems to be, in some quarters, a disposition not only to halt, but to go back upon the past and to undo the work of the past. It is not this spirit which has made England what she is. It is not this spirit which has contributed to the great triumphs of England in India. Having created a new spirit in India which, if properly utilized, would conduce to the permanence of British rule, the English rulers of India now seem to be staggered at their own achievement and feel doubtful of the wisdom of their predecessors, who gave to India a free press, high English education and local self-government. We can only hope that the spirit of reaction will soon be a thing of the past and the old impulse of progress will once again inspire the rulers of India."

BENGALIEE,
14th June 1902.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

831. The following is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—
Landlords and tenants in Pabna. As we apprehended, the late tour of the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi in Pabna, to enquire into the complaints of tenants against their landlords, has made matters worse. The raiyats have thrown off all appearance of decency, and nothing but a compliance with their unreasonable demands would satisfy them. We only hope that all these complications will not result in a repetition of the scenes witnessed during the Raiyat Rising long years ago. We believe the authorities will yet nip the evil in the bud, instead of allowing it to grow and assume serious proportions.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th June 1902.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

832. The following paragraph is taken from the *Bengalee*:—
The dangers of over-head wires. We have repeatedly called attention to the dangers of over-head wires for electric traction in a city like Calcutta, so exposed to the ravages of tropical storms. Cases constantly occur which accentuate our complaint. Shortly after the storm, on Thursday evening last, an up-country Muhammadan, whose identity is unknown, met with his death through coming in contact with a broken electric wire near Wellington Square in Durrumtollah Street, and the event was attended with considerable excitement among a large crowd of people who were attracted to the scene. It was time that the Government moved in the matter and insisted upon the wires being placed under ground. Government cannot, with any show of regard for the public safety, permit these overhead wires which are a menace to the lives of the people. The public safety cannot be permitted to

BENGALIEE,
12th June 1902.

be sacrificed for the sake of the share-holders of the Electric Company, however influential they may be. If necessary, our public bodies should move in the matter, and the question should be brought to the notice of Government by an interpellation in Council.

(h)—General.

BEHAR TIMES,
6th June 1902.

833. The *Behar Times* reverts to the appointment of Babu Siva Saran Lal as Dewan Manager of the Dumraon Raj, which fills it with more satisfaction the more it contemplates

it. It hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor will confirm the appointment.

BEHAR HERALD,
7th June 1902.

834. The following is taken from the *Behar Herald*:—

Ibid.

We are credibly informed by a correspondent that all the European employes of the Dumraon Raj, including the Manager and the Assistant Manager, have resigned their posts in a body. We have seldom heard of resignations in a body until there is some pressure from outside. Wholesale resignations are hardly ever voluntary, but are always actuated by fear of public exposure, shame or insult. We believe some such pressure has been entered on these European employes by the Maharani of Dumraon. In face of the incessant spoliation and ceaseless waste of the Raj treasures which went on during the administration of the late Manager Sahab, we cannot but view the step taken by the Maharani Sahaba with complacency. The Maharani has displayed firmness of mind and prudent sagacity in thus grappling with the awful situation. The selection of Babu Sivasaran Lal, a pleader of Arrah, for the Managership of the Raj, is excellent, and we hope other vacancies will be filled with the same consideration for ability, respectability and *locus standi* as in the above case.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th June 1902.

835. The following paragraph appears in the *Indian Mirror*:—

A Commercial Bureau.

We welcome the proposal of the Government of India to create a Bureau of Commerce for the development of trade and industrial relations between India and other countries. We hope, it will be a Bureau of information only, and not of direction.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th June 1902.

836. Referring to the Viceroy's speech on the possibilities of the sugar industry in this country, the *Indian Mirror* writes as follows:—

The sugar industry.

We, Indians, are invariably taunted with possessing too little self-reliance, and an absorbing desire to depend in great things and small on Government. The reproach is just. But the reproach is just in some degree of Europeans in this country also. The indigo industry in Behar is threatened, and the European indigo-planters and manufacturers whine. The tea-planters cannot get their old fat dividends. The sugar manufacturers are hustled. An indulgent Government has gone out of its way to help them all. Lord Curzon gives the sugar manufacturers, as he says, one more chance. We hope, for the sake of His Excellency's own reputation, that chance will be the last.

BENGAL,
8th June 1902.

837. The *Bengalee* referring to Mr. Bourdillon's speech at the Bengal

Sub-Deputy Collectors.

Council meeting of the 16th April last, regarding Sub-Deputy Collectors, says that no real and lasting improvement of the condition of that class of officers is possible unless and until it is definitely settled that 75 per cent. of the Deputy Collectorships falling vacant every year should be filled by promoting deserving Sub-Deputy Collectors. It points out the following other grievances under which Sub-Deputy Collectors labour and hopes they will be removed:—

(1) The rule (*vide* Article 409A of the Civil Service Regulations) by which Officiating Deputy Collectors count their service towards pension after two years' continuous service and passing of departmental examinations may be extended to the case of Sub-Deputy Collectors, as many of those who were appointed in 1896 have not yet been confirmed in the 4th grade.

(2) The rule regarding travelling allowance should be altered, so that the Sub-Deputy Collectors may get halting allowance and also travelling allowance for 15 miles road-journey for which they get nothing at present.

(3) The rule regarding the examination in frontier languages, such as Sonthali, Pahariya, etc., may be extended to the case of Sub-Deputy Collectors, as they are not permitted to appear at these examinations at present, though Deputy Collectors and Assistant Superintendents of Police are allowed to appear.

(4) Deserving Sub-Deputy Collectors may be vested with 1st class magisterial powers, as, at present, not a single Sub-Deputy Collector has got 1st class powers, though most of them are exercising the powers of a Magistrate of the 2nd class with great ability for a number of years.

(5) Sub-Deputy Collectors should get orderly peons like the Deputy Collectors, as, at present, they do not get any messenger when out on settlement duty.

838. Referring to the announcement that an examination for appointments in the Indian Medical Service will be held in August next in London, the *Indian Empire* objects to the short notice given, which is unfair to all candidates, especially to Indian candidates.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th June 1902.

This and kindred grievances which the educated community labour under, and which should form the subject of agitation, are lost sight of. The *Nation* suggests that, for the following reasons, the condition of the educated classes which enters into rivalry with the English people, should be vigilantly watched.

The field is being gradually more and more narrowed for them nay, the field is being narrowed for education itself. There have been coming into existence more and more impediments in the way of general education, professional and technical education, professional practice, and the services and other occupations (such as the writing and publication of books and the keeping of schools) open to the educated classes.

839. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a complaint by a telegraph signaller of Dongargarh railway station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, of having been assaulted by a European guard of the same railway, and trusts that in the interests of the public and railway administration the Traffic Superintendent will hold a proper enquiry into the matter and that Government will take a note of these offences.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th June 1902.

840. The *Bengalee* comments as follows on the official list of Coronation representatives from India, published by the India Office :—

BENGALIEE,
12th June 1902.

Coronation representatives and the educated community. The Prince of Murshidabad is mentioned as having received his education in England. Of Mr. Chitnavis, it is said "he knows English well." Rai Jaggannath Barua Bahadur (of Assam) is described "as a gentleman of character and education who represents the Province in the Calcutta University." This is all the mention that is made of the educational qualifications of the different representatives. Not one of them is appointed on the ground of his being a representative of the educated community. We do not know how Rai Jaggannath Barua Bahadur, for whom personally we have great respect, can be said to represent the Province of Assam in the Calcutta University. We have no Fellows of the University, who can be regarded as Provincial representatives in any sense of that expression, or who are authorized to speak on behalf of their Province. Who made Rai Jaggannath Barua the representative of Assam in the University? Certainly not the Assamese? Certainly not the University nor even the Government, whose right to make any one a Fellow representing any particular Province is open to serious question? To call Rai Jaggannath Barua Bahadur the representative of Assam in the University is a piece of official euphemism. His so-called official character confers no right and entails no obligations. And even if the Rai Bahadur represented the educated community of Assam, he certainly would not be regarded as the representative of the educated community in general throughout India. Once again, we repeat the complaint, and that despite the official apology, that in the Coronation ceremony the educated community of India have not been represented and the fact is proved to demonstration by the official statement, published by the authority of the

India Office. No one is there described as representing the educated community, while zamindar Rajas, influential talukdars, aristocratic families have all their representatives at the Coronation ceremony.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
13th June 1902.

841. The *Hindoo Patriot* applauds the action of the Amir of Afghanistan in giving representative Government to his subjects, and adds:—

Representative Government in
Afghanistan and India.

If a Muhammadan ruler, not having any advantage of Western education, culture or civilisation, of a despotic country quite unknown to any idea of representative institutions, can come forward having regard to signs of the times with liberal concessions to his backward people, may we ask what should be the duty of our civilised Government in respect of granting similar and wider concessions to the Indian people, who have become far advanced in education through the blessings of British rule, under the circumstance?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th June 1902.

842. Under this heading, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports that in 1900,

"Europeans with itching palms." Mr. Bayley, the District Traffic Superintendent, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, who caused his clerk to be

shoe-beaten, was fined Rs. 20 for assaulting a carter. This lesson, it says, was, however, lost on him. In view of Mr. Marr's judgment, it is feared that natives who come across Mr. Bayley will fare badly, since Mr. Marr not only let him off, but praised him for doing a piece of good work, viz., imparting a lesson free?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th June 1902.

843. Referring to Mr. Thorburn's speech at the meeting of the Famine

The Government of India as a
landlord.

Union in London which dealt with the Government of India being a landlord which had hitherto proved rather a machine-like task-master than a good landlord, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—As a matter of fact, the Government raiyats are not only more rackrented than those who pay rent to zamindars, but the manner in which revenue is collected from them is heartless and unjust in the extreme. The khas mahal raiyats look upon the Certificate Act as a terrible engine of oppression in the hands of the rent-collectors of the Government.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th June 1902.

844. In discussing the question of agricultural improvements, the

Agricultural improvements.

Hindoo Patriot is persuaded that there are various practical ways and means for improvement of agriculture. As the labour of the agricultural class constitutes the wealth of the nation, and as much of the country's weal and woe depend upon agriculture alone, in consequence of a total decline of the ancient arts and industries of the country, that afforded before a suitable outlet for employment with comfortable means of subsistence to a large majority of the children of the soil, it has become an administrative problem of far reaching importance and vital necessity, that awaits adequate and early solution at the hands of the ruling authorities.

845. Referring to the proposed Coronation festivities which were

The proposed Coronation festi-
vities in Calcutta.

discussed at the meeting convened on Wednesday last, the *Indian Mirror* says:—If the halt, the lame, the blind, the indigent passed under the immediate

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th June 1902.

eye of Lord Curzon, His Excellency may obtain some idea of the more gruesome side of Calcutta life. But if officials must take a leading part in these functions, does it not behove Government to pay for the feeding of the poor at different centres? Illuminations and fireworks forsooth, when so many hundreds die daily of starvation! And if lacs upon lacs are to be spent by Government on a costly ceremonial and the entertainment of "illustrious" guests, cannot Government spend a lac or even half-a-lac for giving one good meal to India's poor? And the Committee which has been appointed for the Calcutta Coronation celebration might well reflect, why they should go all the way to London for fireworks. There are Indian pyrotechnists who could execute the order at a quarter the cost. There has been bungling enough in this matter, and the Committee should see that all bungling in the future is avoided.

BENGALIE,
15th June 1902.

846. Work or no work, the *Bengalee* complains, Mr. Chalmers, Superin-

The Bengal Secretariat Press.

tendent of Government Printing, Bengal, has fixed the usual business hours of the Press from 7 A.M. to

8 P.M., to which rule every pressman must conform or pay the penalty of a heavy fine or dismissal. He is reported also to be against granting leave unless furnished with a medical certificate from a Civil Surgeon or an officer of similar status, which in view of a pressman's emoluments is altogether impossible. Finally, Mr. Chalmers is said to have kept open the Press on the occasion of the Queen's birthday when all other offices were closed.

III.—LEGISLATION.

847. The *Bengalee* congratulates Mr. Nagamiah, of the Travancore Legislative Council, on the considerable measure of success which he has already achieved with regard to the Bill which he has introduced, dealing with religious endowments. The attitude of the Government of India towards this question has been, it says, one of uncompromising opposition and undisguised obstruction. They would neither do the right thing themselves nor allow others to do it.

The Religious Endowments Bill
in the Travancore Legislative
Council.

BENGALIEE,
12th June 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

848. The *Indian Nation* is afraid that Indian loyalty is coming to be oppressive to the Government, at any rate to that department of it which is concerned with receiving and acknowledging addresses and resolutions.

Indian loyalty.

INDIAN NATION,
9th June 1902.

849. The *Indian Nation* complains that in Bengal, in spite of the number of associations, newspapers, and the Provincial Conference and National Congress, there is a greater deficiency to-day in organs of agitation than when there was only one association, the British Indian, and one journal, the *Hindoo Patriot*. The reason is plain. A single, strong, clear voice, is more readily heard than a medley of many feeble voices which can only strike one as a cackle. Numbers are an advantage only when increased numbers means increased ability and concentrated power. They are the reverse when increase of quantity is attended with a decline in quality. The men like Harish Chunder Mukerji or Kristo Das Pal who conducted agitations in the old days, took in hand no more work than they could manage and they did it to the best of their ability. Their ambition did not drive them to put themselves forward in every place and in every sort of business, doing many things indifferently and nothing well. A different method is followed now. It is sought now to gain a cause not so much by means of argument, facts and mode of presentation, as by the widespread character of the demand. Mere opinion and display have taken the place of well considered criticism and schemes.

Organs of agitation.

INDIAN NATION,
9th June 1902.

In conclusion it says:—Let us take an instance of the impotence of our present organs of agitation. There is the Panna case. Which Association, which member or Secretary of an Association, has read the voluminous evidence in that case and is prepared to judge the Report of the Commissioners? If no one has done it, how is the Report to be received by the public? Is it to be accepted or differed from? Who makes it his business to go through Legislative Bills, Government Resolutions or Financial statements? Where is a library where all Gazettes, reports and newspapers are to be found? If there are no men, no money, no library, no desire or spirit to do solid work in the way of threshing out a question, the sooner we give up agitation by mere noisy exhibitions, the better for the country.

850. Secretaries of the present day should, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, follow in the footsteps of this successful official, who served both the State and the people with loyalty.

The late Sir John Edgar.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th May 1902.

At the time when the Age of Consent Bill was introduced, and the Government of Lord Lansdowne lost temper and undertook to impart a lesson to native papers, by prosecuting some of them for preaching sedition, Sir John Ware Edgar was as much surprised as the Indians were. And when Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore earnestly sought his help in the matter, he told the Maharaja that it was the *Hukum* of the *Barra Lat*, and the Government of Bengal had no help in the matter but to carry out the orders of the Supreme Government. He admitted that the movement was altogether a mischievous

one. The Maharaja's efforts met with success. It was mainly through the instrumentality of Sir J. Edgar that the Government of India was made to drop the prosecution of the *Bangabasi* on receiving an apology from that paper. A great amount of responsibility lies upon the Secretaries, and Sir John Edgar utilized it for the best interest of the country.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 21st June 1902.

H. B. St. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.